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Letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, issued on 13 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons issued on 13 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the entry into force on 12 November 2006 of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, annexed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

In conflict areas, people continue to be killed or injured by unexploded and abandoned explosive ordnance even after the end of hostilities. The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War addresses the post-conflict humanitarian threat generated by conventional munitions, including cluster munitions, that do not explode as intended or that are abandoned. The Protocol's requirements include the marking, clearance, removal and destruction of such remnants of war by the party in control of the territory in which the munitions are located.

The Protocol is a multilaterally negotiated instrument of international humanitarian law and relevant for arms control. The European Union calls upon all States to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols, which strengthen international humanitarian law and help to protect civilians against the effects of hostilities.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate country the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.